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Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Government of Angola and UNITA initial comprehensive peace agreement in Lusaka; Secretary-General urges establishment of effective cease-fire without without delay, so UNAVEM II can be restored to previous strength.

- General Assembly concludes consideration of annual Security Council report; Cuba says Council's tendency to act as autonomous body is dangerous, given its power to impose sanctions or resort to use of force.

- Secretary-General, in Tblisi, has meetings with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Georgia; expresses hope that upcoming Georgian/Abkhaz talks will lead to progress on refugee issues.

- Security Council should extend ONUSAL mandate until 30 April 1995 to ensure full implementation of key provisions of El Salvador peace accords, Secretary-General says.

- Fourth Committee approves draft by which General Assembly would consolidate role of Committee on Information as its main body mandated to make recommendations on work of DPI.

- Managers responsible for United Nations contracting and procurement should submit financial disclosures to guard against conflicts of interest and other abuses of authority, United States tells Fifth Committee.

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The Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) yesterday initialled a comprehensive peace agreement in Lusaka. Welcoming that step, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the upcoming military talks between the two sides must be quickly brought to a successful conclusion so that the Lusaka Protocol could

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be formally signed by mid-November. A long-lasting peace in Angola would be possible only on the basis of compromise, genuine national reconciliation, tolerance and security for all Angolans.

The Secretary-General strongly appealed to the parties to establish an effective cease-fire without without delay, thus enabling the Security Council to restore the strength of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) to its previous level. The cease-fire would also improve the delivery of humanitarian supplies to more than three million Angolans who were in desperate need of assistance.

He paid tribute to Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye for his patient efforts and hard work. He also expressed gratitude to the representatives of the three observer States -- the United States, Portugal and the Russian Federation -- and to the Heads of State of the sub-region for their invaluable aid in the search for peace in Angola.

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The Security Council increasingly tends to consider as its domain certain issues which have nothing to do with the powers conferred on it by the United Nations Charter, the representative of Cuba told the General Assembly today as it concluded its consideration of the annual report of the Council. He said the Council's tendency to act as an autonomous body was extremely dangerous, given its power to impose sanctions or resort to the use of force.

The representative of New Zealand said the Charter did not assert that the General Assembly was the superior body and the Security Council a subordinate one. However, there was room for improving the relationship between the two organs within their respective constitutional roles. The representative of Japan joined several other speakers in stressing that the views of the Assembly should be reflected in the deliberations of the Council. Information on the Council's activities, particularly on the progress of its informal consultations, could be made more readily available to Member States.

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Continuing his visit to Georgia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today met with Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia. They discussed the question of refugees and displaced persons from Abkhazia and Georgia's economic crisis. The Prime Minister expressed regret at the lack of progress regarding the refugee situation. The Secretary-General recalled that the Georgian/Abkhaz talks under the aegis of Special Representative Edouard Brunner would resume in Geneva on 14 November, and expressed the hope that political advances would lead to progress on refugee questions.

The Secretary-General then met with Foreign Minister Alexander Chikvaidze, who expressed appreciation for the establishment of a United

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Nations office in Tblisi in 1992. He later addressed the Parliament of Georgia, and was the guest of honour at a dinner offered by President Eduard Shevardnadze.

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The mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) should be extended until 30 April 1995 in order to ensure that certain key provisions of the Salvadorian peace accords are fully implemented, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the Security Council dated 31 October, he said the Mission's strength could be reduced to not more than 100 international staff. He added that he was exercising maximum suasion on the parties, both directly and through his Special Representative, to honour their commitments in full and promptly.

The Secretary-General said goals in the area of public security, particularly the disbandment of the National Police and the National Civil Police, could be attained in five months. United Nations military and police personnel would not be needed in El Salvador thereafter. It would then be possible to consider how best to approach the remaining verification duties, relating to such matters as institutional reforms in the judiciary, the recommendations of the Commission on the Truth, and the reintegration programme. He noted the widely held view that the termination of ONUSAL should not mark the end of United Nations efforts to consolidate peace in El Salvador.

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The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) has said that the General Assembly should consolidate the role of the Committee on Information as its main body mandated to make recommendations relating to the work of the Department of Public Information (DPI). It took that action yesterday, by approving, without a vote, texts submitted by the Committee on Information on "United Nations public information policies and activities" and on "information in service of humanity". It also approved a draft decision by which the Assembly would increase the Information Committee's membership from 83 to 88 and would appoint Belize, Croatia, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan and South Africa as new members.

The text on United Nations information policies would have the Assembly encourage the Joint United Nations Information Committee to continue its consideration of the status of Development Forum. It would ask the DPI to ensure that its publications fill an identifiable need, avoid duplication and be produced in a cost-effective manner. The Assembly would reaffirm the importance attached to the role of United Nations information centres and its own role in relation to the opening of new centres. It would express its full support for the wide and prompt coverage of United Nations activities through United Nations press releases in both working languages of the Secretariat.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar, said that in its search for innovative and cost-effective means of delivering

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the United Nations message, the DPI would be greatly assisted by the statements made in the Fourth Committee. The Department would make every effort to meet the expectations of Member States through the efforts of a dedicated staff who were now mobilized to work closely with them in communicating an effective and coherent message.

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Senior staff responsible for contracting and procurement should be made to submit financial disclosure statements to guard against conflicts of interest and other abuses of the enlarged authority being granted to them by United Nations reforms, the United States representative told the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) yesterday. He made that comment as the Committee continued its review of United Nations efficiency, and began considering financial statements and reports of the United Nations Board of Auditors.

The representative of India said the group of experts invited by the Secretariat to review United Nations procurements and establish a competitive and fair process must be drawn from all geographical regions. The results of its work should be made available to Member States. Germany, speaking for the European Union and and Austria, said the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Fifth Committee deserved credit for their persistent advice to a reluctant Secretariat on the need for the highest standards of managerial competence.

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